Violation of Environmental Laws

2609. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:,

(a) whether Government have noticed violation of environmental laws by some State Government by issuing licences to various polluting industries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the said period till date year-wise;

(c) the number of industries found guilty including steel, cement and petro-refinery in this context;

(d) if so, the number of such cases during the said period till date; and

(e) the remedial steps contemplated by Government to prevent such violations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committee (PCCs) in Union Territories are responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the various States/Union Territories. Necessary permission from the SPCBs/PCCs is required before discharging effluents emanating from the industries including steel, cement and petro-refinery.

No cases of violation of environmental laws by State Governments have come to the notice of the Government while issuing consents to industries during the last three years by SPCBs/PCCs.

(e) Does not arise.

Forest Fire in Hill District of Uttar Pradesh

2610. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that forest fire is spreading in hill districts of Almora, Nainital and Chamoli in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to extinguish it with the cooperation of the State Government;

(c) whether any estimate of loss of forest wealth and wild life due to this fire has been made; and

(d) what action has been taken to save forests and help wild animals in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As reported by the Uttar Pradesh Government during the current fire season there have been 57 incidents of scattered small fires over 213 hectares of forest land in the Kumaon and Garhwal hills of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The fires have been only ground fires and have been controlled by the State Forest Department and they have caused on major damage to the forest.

(c) Since these were only ground fires there is no quantifiable loss except of grasses.

(d) Following measures have been taken to save the forest and wildlife:

(i) Fire lines have been cleared.

(ii) Control burning around regeneration areas has been done.

(iii) Fire Fighting forces have been deployed in all vulnerable places, who are equipped with equipment, vehicles and wireless sets. They try to reach the spot immediately.

(iv) Co-operation of villagers is taken to get the inforamtion and help in fire fighting.